

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT A 03779 062321Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-05 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07  
NSAE-00 L-03 /050 W  
-----100802 071929Z /50  
R 062040Z OCT 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6438

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 3779

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDIP, PINT, SHUM, HA  
SUBJ: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT DUVALIER

REF: STATE 234220

1. I MET WITH THE PRESIDENT FOR ABOUT ONE HALF HOUR TODAY (OCT. 6) AND RAISED THE POINTS MENTIONED IN REFTEL. THE PRESIDENT RESPONDED BY THANKING US FOR OUR EXPRESSION OF SATISFACTION AT THE RELEASE OF THE PRISONERS, THE SIGNING OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTION, AND HIS PLAN TO CLEAR THE RECORDS ON PRISONERS WHO MAY HAVE DIED WHILE CONFINED. HE SAID THAT HE ALSO VALUED CONTINUED CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND WAS COMMITTED TO PROGRESS TOWARD THE ENDING OF POVERTY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. HE SAID HE VIEWED THESE AS THE LONG TERM GOALS OF HIS ADMINISTRATION.

2. I STRESSED THAT WE WILL HAVE A CONTINUING INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE WAS AWARE OF OUR CONCERNS AND THAT HE VIEWED THE WHOLE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY AS ONE WHICH MUST BE VIEWED WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE HISTORY AND MENTALITY OF THE HAITIAN PEOPLE. HE SAID HE WAS COMMITTED TO MOVING TOWARDS DEMOCRACY, BUT IT MUST BE DONW EITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF HAITIAN REALITIES. I THEN SAID  
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THAT I WOULD BE PLEASED TO KNOW OF ANY NEW SPECIFIC PROPOSALS THAT THE PRESIDENT MIGHT HAVE IN MOVING TOWARD GREATER DEMOCRACY. THE PRESIDENT RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT HE WOULD NOT WANT TO GIVE SPECIFICS NOW BUT THAT HE WAS DETERMINED THAT PROGRESS MUST BE ORDERLY AND STABLE. HE SAID THAT ITALY WAS AN EXAMPLE OF A COUNTRY MOVING TOWARDS CHAOS AS A RESULT OF TOO MUCH DEMOCRACY AND HE POINTED OUT

THAT THERE WERE MANY DEMONSTRATIONS AND THAT THESE WERE FREQUENTLY VIOLENT. HE SAID THAT THE HAITIAN PEOPLE WERE NOT ACCUSTOMED TO ORDERLY CHANGE AND THEIR HISTORY WAS ONE OF ATTEMPTS TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT BY FORCE. HE SAID HE INTENDED TO MAINTAIN A CLOSE DIALOGUE WITH HIS PEOPLE TO KNOW THEIR NEEDS AND HE FELT HE WAS SO FAR SUCCESSFUL IN DOING SO. I RESPONDED THAT DEMOCRACY IS INDEED A LONG TERM PROCESS WHICH MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT A NATION'S HISTORY AND CULTURE, BUT I HOPED HAITI WOULD CONTINUE TO MAKE PROGRESS.

3. I THEN RAISED THE VISIT OF AMBASSADOR TODMAN AND THE PRESIDENT SAID HE WOJLD LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING AND TALKING WITH AMBASSADOR TODMAN. I SUGGESTED OCTOBER 14 AS A POSSIBLE DATE FOR THE MEETING AND THE PRESIDENT SAID HE WOULD LET US KNOW THE EXACT TIME AND DATE.

4. THE PRESIDENT THEN EXPRESSED HIS SOLIDARITY WITH BLACK PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND I SAID HAITI'S HISTORY OF FIGHTING FOR INDEPENDENCE WAS INDEED OUTSTANDING AND A SOURCE OF PRIDE FOR US ALL. WE TERMINATED THE DISCUSSION AND I EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT WE COULD MEET FROM TIME TO TIME TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST IN A CANDID AND FRANK MANNER.  
JONES

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, PRISONERS RELEASE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Subject:** MEETING WITH PRESIDENT DUVALIER  
**TAGS:** PDIP, PINT, SHUM, HA, US, (DUVALIER, JEAN-CLAUDE), (JONES, WILLIAM BOWDOIN)  
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